

Message Text

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XMT AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

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TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: ENERGY RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
REPORT TO CONGRESS: BEGIN UNDERLINE NATIONAL
ENERGY R & D PLAN: CREATING CHOICES FOR THE
FUTURE END UNDERLINE

1. SUBJECT REPORT RELEASED BY ERDA JUNE 30. REPRESENTS
A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PLAN FOR ENERGY R & D AND
DEMONSTRATION DEALING WITH NEAR TERM, MID-TERM, AND LONG
TERM ENERGY NEEDS AS WELL AS DETAILED PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT
PLAN.

2. REPORT CONSIDERED TO BE FOUNDATION FOR US NATIONAL
ENERGY R & D STRATEGY. AS REQUIRED BY LAW IT WILL BE
UPDATED JANUARY 1976 AND ON ANNUAL BASIS THEREAFTER.
DESIGNED FOR USE BY CONGRESS, INDUSTRY, UNIVERSITIES AND
PUBLIC AS INDICATION OF ENERGY R & D NEEDS AND GOVERN-
MENTAL PLANS TO MEET THESE NEEDS.

3. BACKGROUND MATERIAL RELATED TO REPORT BEING AIR POUCHED
FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WITH INTERESTS
IN US ENERGY R & D PROGRAM.

4. PRINCIPAL CONCLUSIONS - A SERIOUS AND CONTINUING
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ENERGY PROBLEM EXISTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

-- TODAY'S PROBLEM ONE OF LIMITED CHOICE.

-- OVER 3/4 OF CURRENT ENERGY NEEDS SATISFIED BY OIL
AND GAS, WHOSE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION IS DECLINING, AND OF
WHICH ONLY LIMITED RESOURCES REMAIN FOR FUTURE PRODUCTION.

-- INSUFFICIENT USE BEING MADE OF ENERGY SOURCES OF
MUCH GREATER DOMESTIC ABUNDANCE -- COAL, SHALE, NUCLEAR,
AND SOLAR.

-- THE MISMATCH BETWEEN USE AND RESOURCES, AND
RESULTING DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS, JEOPARDIZES THE POLICY
INDEPENDENCE AND THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF COUNTRY.

THE U.S. NEEDS TO SHIFT TO NEW PRIMARY FORMS OF ENERGY PRODUCTION. SUCH A MAJOR SHIFT HAS ALREADY OCCURRED TWICE FORE IN OUR HISTORY.

-- FROM WOOD FUELS IN THE MID-1800S TO COAL IN THE EARLY 1900S AND THEN FROM COAL TO OIL AND GAS.

-- TWO EARLIER SHIFTS EACH TOOK 60 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH THE PRESENTLY NEEDED SHIFT IN FUEL USE.

ABILITY TO SHORTEN THE TRANSITION TIME WILL DEPEND ON THE FULL USE OF ALL AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY AND UPON THE RAPID COMMERCIALIZATION OF OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.

-- THE RD&D PROGRAM WILL BE KEY MECHANISM IN OPENING UP CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE.

-- MULTI-PRONGED AND AGGRESSIVE APPROACH IS NEEDED TO REDUCE THE RISKS AND TO ACHIEVE THE BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL NEW TECHNOLOGIES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATES.

THE R&D TARGET MUST EXCEED PERCEIVED NEEDS BY SUBSTANTIAL FACTOR TO ALLOW FOR INEVITABLE R&D FAILURES -- WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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TECHNICAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, OR SOCIAL. SENSE OF URGENCY IS MANDATORY IN THE CONDUCT OF THE PROGRAM. MAJOR LINES OF APPROACH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. FOR NEAR-TERM (NOW TO 1985) AND BEYOND, THE PRIORITIES ARE:

-- TO PRESERVE AND EXPAND MAJOR EXISTING ENERGY SYSTEMS: COAL, LIGHT WATER REACTORS (THE HIGHEST NUCLEAR PRIORITY), AND GAS AND OIL FROM NEW SOURCES AND ENHANCED

RECOVERY TECHNIQUES.

-- TO INCREASE EFFORTS ON CONSERVATION, TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF ENERGY USE IN ALL SECTORS OF OUR ECONOMY AND TO EXTRACT MORE USABLE ENERGY FROM WASTE MATERIALS.

FOR MID-TERM (1985 TO 2000) AND BEYOND PRIORITIES ARE:

-- TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PROCESSES TO PRODUCE SYNTHETIC FUELS FROM COAL, AND TO EXTRACT OIL FROM SHALE.

-- TO INCREASE USE OF UNDERUSED FUEL FORMS SUCH AS GEOTHERMAL, SOLAR FOR HOME HEATING AND COOLING, AND EXTRACTION OF MORE USABLE ENERGY FROM WASTE HEAT.

FOR FAR-TERM (PAST 2000) PRIORITIES ARE:

-- TO PURSUE VIGOROUSLY CANDIDATE TECHNOLOGIES WHICH
WILL LET US USE ESSENTIALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE RESOURCES:

- NUCLEAR BREEDER.

- FUSION.

- SOLAR ELECTRIC THROUGH VARIETY OF TECHNOLOGICAL
OPTIONS EXTENDING FROM WIND POWER THROUGH THERMAL AND
PHOTOVOLTAIC APPROACHES TO USE OF OCEAN THERMAL GRADIENTS.

-- NONE OF ABOVE TECHNOLOGIES ARE ASSURED FOR LARGE
SCALE APPLICATION. ALL HAVE UNIQUE UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS
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IN ONE OR MORE AREAS: TECHNICAL, ECONOMICAL, ENVIRON-
MENTAL OR SOCIAL. BENEFITS TO BE GAINED IN ACHIEVING
SUCCESS IN ONE OR MORE OF THESE APPROACHES REQUIRE THAT
VIGOROUS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS PROCEED NOW ON ALL THREE.

-- TO PROVIDE TECHNOLOGIES TO USE THE NEW SOURCE OF
ENERGY WHICH MAY BE DISTRIBUTED AS ELECTRICITY, HYDROGEN
OR OTHER FORMS THROUGHOUT ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

MID- AND LONG-TERM TARGETS REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT
TODAY TO PERMIT SIGNIFICANT ENERGY CONTRIBUTION TO BE
ACHIEVED IN DESIRED TIMEFRAME.

IN SUMMARY, TODAY'S NATIONAL RD&D ACTIVITIES MUST BE
DESIGNED TO:

-- SHORTEN THE TIME FOR TRANSITION TO NEW FUEL FORMS

BASED ON ABUNDANT DOMESTIC FUEL RESOURCES.

-- AVOID OVEREMPHASIS ON SINGLE APPROACHES WHICH
TEND TO FORECLOSE FUTURE OPTIONS.

-- OPEN UP NEW CHOICES FOR THE FUTURE. KISSINGER

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